GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3451
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2017
Import of Gunny Bags
Mohan Shri P. C.

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether gunny bags are being imported from Bangladesh and Nepal whereas the Indian jute industry is facing difficulties in getting orders and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether her Ministry has received any report from Jute Commissioner that the statutory packing order has been violated;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the revival of jute industry and to prevent import of jute bags from other countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES
(SHRI AJAY TAMTA)

(a): No, Madam. The Indian jute industry has an assured market as State Procurement Agencies are required to purchase gunny bags under the Jute Packaging Materials Act, 1987.

(b): No, Madam.

(c): Does not arise.

(d): Government is implementing the following schemes and measures to support the jute manufacturing units and to strengthen the jute sector:-

(i) Under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) [JPM Act], 1987, Government specifies the commodities and the extent to which they are mandatorily required to be packed in Jute Packaging Materials. At present, a minimum of 90% of food grains and a minimum of 20% of sugar are to be compulsorily packed in jute sacking. On an average, the annual Government support to jute industry on the account amounts to Rs.5500 crores.

(ii) Whenever the market price of raw jute falls below a certain level, the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) procures raw jute at Minimum Support Price (MSP), fixed on the basis of recommendation of the commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices (CACP) from jute growers to safeguard their interest. Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 204 crores for four years starting 2014-15 to enable JCI to be in readiness for MSP operations.

(iii) Incentive Scheme for Acquisition of Plants and Machinery (ISAPM): Government of India launched ISAPM for Jute Industry and Jute Diversified Products Manufacturing Units, with effect from 1st October 2013. The basic aim of this scheme is to facilitate modernization in existing and new jute mills and up- gradation of technology in existing jute mills and to provide assistance to a large number of entrepreneurs to manufacture value added biodegradable Jute Diversified Products (JDP) as well as for modernization Jute up-gradation of technology.

(iv) Jute-ICARE (Jute: Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise): This pilot project launched in 2015 is aimed at addressing the difficulties faced by the jute cultivators by providing them certified seeds at subsidized rates, seed drills to facilitate line sowing, nail-weeders to carry out periodic weeding and by popularising several newly developed retting technologies under water limiting conditions. This has resulted in increased returns to jute farmers.

(v) The National Jute Board implements various schemes for market development, workers welfare and promotion of diversification and exports.

(vi) Government has issued a notification on 5th January, 2017 imposing Definitive Anti-Dumping Duty on jute goods originating from Bangladesh and Nepal. Based on the current level of imports, the Industry has estimated that this is likely to generate upto 2 lakh MT of additional demand for jute goods to be met by the Indian Jute industry.

(vii) Government has made it mandatory for the entire chain from importers and traders to the level before the end-users, to register with the Office of Jute Commissioner, and furnish monthly reports on the imported goods.

(viii) Government through its Office of Jute Commissioner, Kolkata has also directed all manufacturers, importers processors and

traders to mark/ print/ brand the words "Made in- Country of Origin" on imported bags. Customs have also been requested to maintain a strict vigil so that no unregistered importers/ traders can import jute and no unbranded jute goods can enter India.

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